

Mississippi **FOREST FACTS**

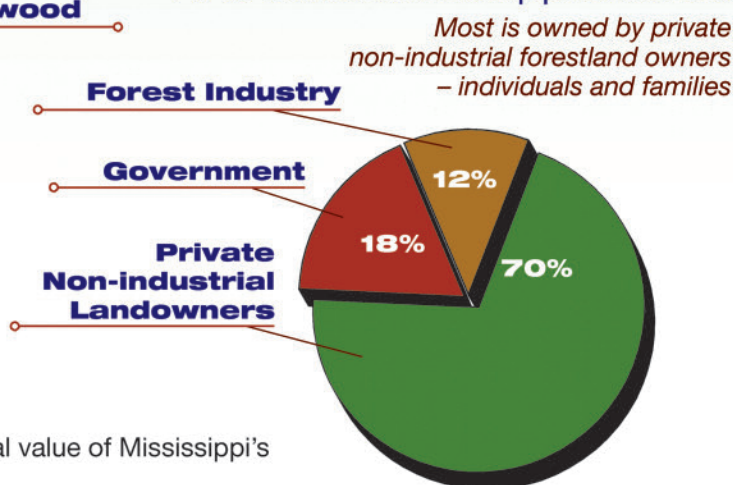
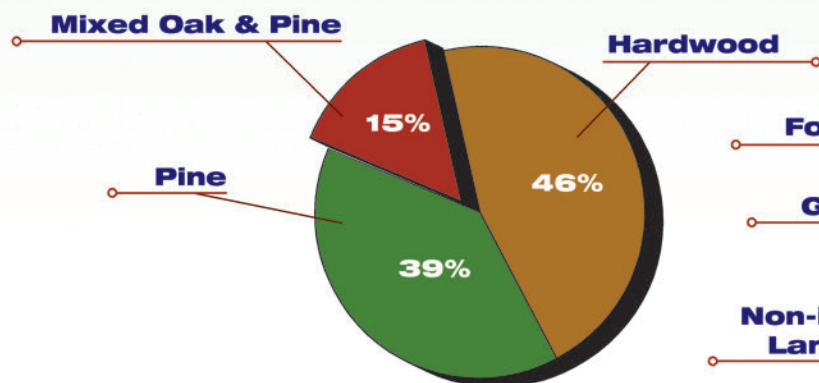


Acreage and Ownership

According to recent surveys of Mississippi:

- 65 percent of Mississippi's land is in forests.
- Mississippi has 19.8 million acres of forestland, 1.1 million more acres than in 1992. In 1934 Mississippi had 16.2 million acres of forestland.
- Mississippi has more Tree Farms, over 3000 of them, than any other state in the United States, and boasts 64 county forestry associations representing 72 of 82 counties.

Who owns Mississippi's forests?



Forestry and the Economy

Timber is a very important crop in Mississippi. The total value of Mississippi's timber crop was more than \$1 billion in 2006.

- 2006 was the 14th straight year Mississippi's annual timber production value exceeded \$1 billion.
- The total forest industry impact on Mississippi's economy was about \$17.4 billion in 2006.
- Mississippi is a forestry leader. The first ever comprehensive state-sponsored forest resources inventory began in 2004. This remote sensing, satellite imagery-based forest resources inventory accurately determines how much of the state's land is covered with timber, and the size, ages and types of forestlands by region. The Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory (MIFI) is the state agency that conducts this on-going statewide forest inventory. Learn more about this program at www.mifi.ms.gov.
- Mississippi was the first state in the nation to establish a reforestation tax credit, helping landowners with expenses associated with the stewardship of forestland and encouraging them to replant after harvest. In 2007, Mississippi Forestry Association and its partners worked with the legislature to increase the credit's lifetime limit from \$10,000 to \$75,000.
- Our forests provide recreational opportunities, encourage tourism and create environmental benefits such as excellent water quality, cleaner air, improved wildlife habitat and the storage of atmospheric carbon.
- Promoting sustainable forest management, reforestation after harvest and keeping our forests productive have strategic long-term economic benefits for Mississippi.

Employment and Wage Summary

In 2006, forestry and forestry-related employment:

- accounted for 8.5% of all jobs in Mississippi
- totaled over 123,000 jobs
- paid out \$ 4.4 billion in wages

These statistics reflect jobs directly created by forestry, jobs created by suppliers of forestry goods and services, and jobs created by simple consumer purchasing. To view the full report, visit fwrc.msstate.edu/viewpubs.asp.



Mississippi Forest Facts is published by Mississippi Forestry Association, www.msforestry.net.
Statistics were compiled by Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory and
Mississippi State University.



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

*Good for you. Good for our forests.*SM

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program is based on the premise that responsible environmental behavior and sound business decisions can successfully co-exist.

SFI program participants practice sustainable forestry on all the lands they manage and purchase raw materials through an SFI approved procurement system. Millions of additional acres are influenced through SFI logger and forester training and through an extensive landowner outreach program.

This unique commitment to sustainable forestry recognizes that all forest landowners, not just SFI program participants, play a critical role in ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of our forests.

**SFI certifies over
150 million acres
of forestlands.**

Mississippi Forestry Association members are leading SFI Program implementation in Mississippi. Other active participants are forest products companies, logging contractors, the Mississippi Forestry Commission, The USDA Forest Service, The Mississippi State University Extension Service, MSU's College of Forest Resources and other members of the forestry community.

SFI Activities in Mississippi

● **Logger Education**

Mississippi's Continuing Education for Professional Loggers Program presents workshops in Best Management Practices (BMPs) and harvest planning, communicating and working with the public, business management and safety. Since the program began in 1996 around 600 workshops have been held for more than 21,000 participants.

● **Landowner Outreach**

Seventy percent of the forest land in Mississippi is owned by private individuals and families. During and after the timber sales process, SFI program participants encourage private non-industrial landowners who sell timber to follow voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the protection of water and site quality and to replant their timberland.

● **Public Awareness**

SFI Program information is available to the public on MFA's website (www.msforestry.net) and on the SFI Program website (www.sfiprogram.org).

Associated with the SFI Program are performance measures designed to gauge progress in achieving the SFI objectives, including an annual report to the public. This annual SFI Progress Report and other informative publications are available on the SFI website.

● **Inconsistent Practices**

Inconsistent practices are any activities conducted by SFI program participants that are not consistent with the SFI standard. In Mississippi an SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) has developed a confidential process to receive, respond to, and follow up on any complaints. To report an inconsistent practice, contact MFA at 601.354.4936.

Practicing sustainable forestry means:

- Reforesting within a certain time after final harvest – two years if the acreage is replanted, five years if the forest is naturally regenerated.
- Protecting water quality and wildlife habitat by meeting or exceeding forestry Best Management Practices established by each state and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Minimizing the impact of forestry operations on visual quality by limiting the maximum average size of clearcuts to 120 acres and requiring green-up periods before adjacent areas can be harvested.
- Identifying special sites with unique historical or biological significance and work with independent experts to manage and protect these areas.
- Continuing to improve wood utilization in an effort to ease the pressure on forests created by an increasing consumer demand for forest products.
- Continuing the prudent use of forest chemicals to improve forest health while protecting employees, the public and water quality.



MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

620 N. State Street, Suite 201
Jackson, Mississippi 39202
601.354.4936 • Fax 601.354.4937
www.msforestry.net